

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 NSF-01 OES-09
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 SAS-02 EB-08 SS-15
ICA-11 /094 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:MMEYERS:CB
APPROVED BY EA/J:AROMBERG
NSC/OSTP:BHUBERMAN
DOE:NSEIVERING (SUBS)
NSF:GPIMENTEL(INFO)
NSC:NPLATT
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EA, OES, DOE, NSC, NSF
-----131058 290323Z /73
P 290239Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218943

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: ENERGY R & D DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) TOKYO 15507 (B) STATE 217769

1. ON AUGUST 28, EMBASSY COUNSELOR FUJII CALLED ON EA/J DIRECTOR ROMBERG TO DELIVER DRAFT TEXT OF PROPOSED JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND TO DISCUSS UPCOMING R & D DISCUSSIONS IN TOKYO. RE PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE, FUKII NOTED THREE ITEMS THAT MAY BE OF CONCERN TO US SIDE: (A) THE PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE IS NOT AS "SPECIFIC" IN REGARD TO AGREEMENT ON PARTICULAR PROJECTS AS THE US WOULD PROBABLY LIKE; (B) THE JAPANESE AGAIN PLACE NUCLEAR FUSION BEFORE COAL
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LIQUEFACTION IN THE COMMUNIQUE AND IDENTIFY IT AS BEING OF "FIRST PRIORITY" AND (B) THE COMMUNIQUE AGAIN REFERS TO DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY SOURCES LOOKING "TOWARDS THE 21ST CENTURY." FUKII EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT USE OF THE WORD "TOWARDS" WOULD SATISFY OUR NEEDS OF DEALING WITH 20TH CENTURY ENERGY PROBLEMS; I.E. COAL LIQUEFACTION, AS WELL. FUJII INDICATED THAT THE DRAFT, AS PRESENTED, HAD

NOT BEEN FULLY CLEARED WITHIN THE GOJ BUT THAT HE WISHED TO PRESENT IT TO US BEFORE LEAVING FOR TOKYO AUGUST 29. JAPANESE EMBASSY WILL CALL AUGUST 29 TO VERIFY ANY CHANGES IN FULLY CLEARED GOJ DRAFT. EA/J WILL THEN COORDINATE

US REPLY. FULLY CLEARED DRAFT WILL THEN BE GIVEN EMBASSY BY MOFA.

2. IN A PRELIMINARY REPLY TO FUJII'S PRESENTATION ROMBERG NOTED THAT THE MORE SPECIFIC WE COULD BE IN IDENTIFYING PROJECTS THE BETTER THIS WOULD BE. HE CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FACTOR IN THE BUDGET CYCLE. ROMBERG NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AMOUNT OF SPECIFICITY CONTAINED IN THE COMMUNIQUE NEED NOT BE OF GREAT CONCERN, PARTICULARLY IF ACTUAL AGREEMENT, PERHAPS AS REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, WHICH US ALSO HOPED WOULD COME OUT OF MEETING, SCOPED OUT PROJECTS MORE FULLY. HE REITERATED POINT MADE PERVIOUSLY THAT US SIDE WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEM LISTING NUCLEAR FUSION FIRST SO LONG AS COAL LIQUEFACTION WAS ALSO AMONGST THE AGREED PROJECTS.

3. FUKII'S PRESENTATION REFLECTED FACT THAT HE IS CLEARLY CONCERNED THAT TOKYO ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS MIGHT NOT GO AS FAR AS US WOULD LIKE IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON ACTUAL PROJECTS. EA/J MEYERS THEN EXPLAINED TO FUKII CONFIDENTIAL

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SCENARIO THAT DEUTCH BELIEVES WOULD BE MOST "EFFICIENT WAY" OF ADVANCING DISCUSSIONS; I.E. A PLENARY 9/4 A.M., WORKING GROUPS 9/4 P.M., FOLLOWED BY SOME ROUTINE 9/5 AND CLOSING PLENARY 9/6 A.M. (THIS IS SCENARIO DEUTCH PROPOSED AT 8/25 WORKING SESSION OF US DELEGATION.) FUKII ASKED US TO CONFIRM AGAIN THAT THIS IS APPROACH US CHAIRMAN WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW. EA/J HAS COME THIS AND CONFIRMED SAME TO JAPANESE EMBASSY.

4. ROMBERG AGAIN SOUGHT CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER FUJII SAW A PROBLEM IN FUNDING BOTH NUCLEAR FUSION AND COAL LIQUEFACTION PROJECTS. FUKII REPLIED "NO" BUT SEEMED LESS SURE THAN DURING HIS 8/25 CONVERSATION WITH DOE'S SEIVERING.

5. WE ALSO SUGGESTED TO FUKII THAT SINCE US DELEGATION IS REMAINING UNTIL SEPT 6TH AND SINCE A CLOSING PLENARY WOULD PROBABLY BE HELD THAT MORNING, IT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND RELEASE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE LATE IN THE MORNING OF THE 6TH AFTER THE TALKS ARE OVER. DOE PREFERS THIS APPROACH, TOO. FUJII AGREED, BUT SAID WE WOULD WANT TO NOTIFY PRESS IN ADVANCE

SO THAT IT DID NOT APPEAR THERE HAD BEEN LAST MINUTE PROBLEMS.

6. WE ALSO DISCUSSED CONCEPT OF "MOU", "EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT" ETC. WITH FUJII. ROMBERG DISCUSSED IT AS A DOCUMENT THAT WE WOULD BEGIN TO DEVELOP AT TOKYO SESSION

(PERHAPS IN DRAFT), THAT WOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AND WHICH COULD BE FLESHED OUT AND SIGNED AT DEUTCH FOLLOW-ON MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER. (FUJII HIMSELF SUGGESTED SUCH A FOLLOW-ON MEETING, WHICH WE HAVE ALL ALONG FELT NECESSARY.) ROMBERG EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT MIGHT BE TAILORED TO MEET POSSIBLE "EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT" NEEDS OF GOJ. HE AND FUJII AGREED THAT TWO SIDES CONFIDENTIAL

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DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO WRITING A NEW TREATY. FYI: US DELEGATION IS DRAFTING A PROPOSED MOU AND WILL EITHER BRING IT OR FORWARD IT TO TOKYO.

7. FUJII AND SCIENCE COUNSELOR NAGARA ALSO MET WITH OSTP HUBERMAN AND NSC'S PLATT AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 28. HUBERMAN REAFFIRMED EA/J'S REACTION OF THIS MORNING BUT ADDED TWO POINTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED COMMUNIQUE: (1) THAT ITS DISCUSSION OF NON-ENERGY COOPERATION IS "TOO NEGATIVE" FOR THE US AND (2) THAT THE COMMUNIQUE SHOULD CONTAIN SOME MENTION OF THE LDC'S AND OF THE NEED FOR US/JAPAN COOPERATION TO HELP ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE ENERGY PROBLEMS. PLATT ALSO POINTED OUT THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, OF THE TOKYO MEETING IN TWO RESPECTS. PLATT NOTED THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF BOTH OUR EFFORTS TO EXPAND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE EAST ASIAN REGION, US-JAPANESE S & T COOPERATION WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL LONG-TERM SIGNIFICANCE. MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE REGARDED AS A POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT DURING THIS TIME WHEN MANY OF OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SPENT ON LIMITING DAMAGE AND CONTROLLING FRICTIONS IN OTHER AREAS.

8. ON A RELATED SUBJECT DOE HAS ADVISED US OF A PROFESSOR ROBERT HOFSTADTER, LASER FUSION EXPERT FROM STANFORD, WHO IS IN TOKYO ON STRICTLY PRIVATE BUSINESS. DEUTCH'S OFFICE HAS ASKED US TO INFORM YOU THAT DR. HOFSTADTER HAS NO CONNECTION WITH DOE BUT THAT HE DOES HAVE A PERSONAL COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN SEEKING JAPANESE COOPERATION IN LASER FUSION RESEARCH. HE MAY SEEK TO ENLIST EMBASSY'S SUPPORT IN SEEKING A PERSONAL MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA. YOU SHOULD HANDLE THIS AS YOU WOULD ANY OTHER PRIVATE REQUEST.

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